

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Meves - 343-3225

For Release MARCH 20, 1964

## INTERIOR ANNOUNCES PUBLIC LAND WITHDRAWAL TO COMPLETE PAHRANAGAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN NEVADA

The Department of the Interior today announced signing of an order reserving 1,311 acres of public land to complete the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge in Lincoln County, Nevada. The refuge was established on 3,892 acres of land purchased in August 1963, after the approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The addition of the public land brings the unit to its total planned size of 5,203 acres.

Located in a relatively well-watered valley, the refuge is on an important waterfowl flight lane between Great Salt Lake and the Imperial Valley in California. The area has a long history of waterfowl use, mostly during migration, but also has heavy use during favorable winters.

Principal water areas are Upper and Lower Pahrnagat Lakes. Development plans for the area include supplemental water areas through seasonal impoundments, the number and size depending on development of ground water. At least 400 acres will be used as waterfowl crop areas. Grazing will be continued under management to maintain range and pasture lands in optimum condition for waterfowl use.

The Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that a peak population of 40,000 waterfowl will use the developed refuge during migration periods.

A notice of the public land withdrawal for refuge purposes is being published in the Federal Register.

x x x